

URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1963

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Chairman of the Council : Councillor H. C. R. HEAD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor R. H. FISHER

Councillors : E. W. DANIELS, E. W. EDWARDS,
B. C. HARDWICK, S. D. PERRY, H. C. R. HEAD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)
(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow, Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. LASLETT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. F. SMITHIE, O.B.E., M.I.MUN.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

A. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

July 2nd, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1963.

The Birth Rate shows a slight rise on last year and is now more than five points higher than the rate for the rest of the country.

The Death Rate remains at a satisfactory low level. Of the 137 deaths, Heart and Allied Diseases and Cancer accounted for 92.

The Infant Mortality Rate remains at approximately the same level being one point below that for the rest of the country.

I should like to record another year of cordial co-operation with your Clerk, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

				1963	1962
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	4459	4459
Population	...	...	...	19390	18290
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	5869	5605
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	£935051	£300863
Rate per £1	...	...	...	9/10	25/2
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£4050	£1250

BIRTHS:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	223	207
					Females	209	197
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	11	3
					Females	9	11
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...		23.3	22.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County	...	...	...	...		19.2	19.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		18.2	18.0
Still Births	...	...	...	...	Males	1	5
					Females	7	5

DEATHS:

					Males	80	83
					Females	57	56
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...		7.1	7.6
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County	...	...	...	...		9.9	9.6
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		12.2	11.9
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...		Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and							
Wales	...	...	...	...		0.30	0.35
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County	...	...	...	...		0.28	0.10

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

	1963	1962
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	19.9	19.1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	17.7	17.9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	20.9	21.4

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	1963			1962		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	0	1	2	0	2
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	14	13	27	12	7	19
Leukaemia	0	2	2	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	10	7	17	8	9	17
Heart Disease	23	18	41	26	19	45
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	3	7	2	1	3
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	7	4	11	7	2	9
Bronchitis	10	1	11	6	1	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0	1	2	3
Digestive Diseases	0	1	1	1	2	3
Nephritis	0	1	1	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	0	0	1	2	3
Accidents	3	2	5	3	3	6
Suicide	1	0	1	3	1	4
All Other Causes	7	5	12	8	6	14
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	80	57	137	83	56	139

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford and Aylesbury. Samples of Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services, which are radio controlled, are administered by the County Council.

One main Station is maintained at Bletchley with substations at Buckingham, Wolverton and Newport Pagnell.

Vehicles at the Bletchley Station consist of five Ambulances, five Dual Purpose Vehicles, two coaches and one Land Rover.

They have dealt satisfactorily with all general cases, including accidents.

3. HOME NURSING

Five District Nurse/Midwives are now functioning in the area. As in previous years they carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

(a) *Child Welfare*

Due to the expansion of the town two sessions weekly are now held at the Whalley Drive Clinic plus a special "Toddlers" session every fourth Friday. The voluntary committee and health visitors attended each time and a doctor once a week.

The Clinic being held at the Spurgeon Memorial Baptist Church was moved to the Methodist Hall in Bletchley Road as it was more central.

Fortnightly sessions were held attended by the voluntary committee, health visitors and doctors. The total number of attendances during the year by children was 5,268.

I should like to record again grateful thanks to the ladies of the voluntary committees for giving so much of their spare time to this work.

(b) *Child Guidance Clinic*

This clinic; which is housed in the Whalley Drive Clinic, is now fully staffed with Consultant Psychiatrist, Educational Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker.

(c) *Dental Clinic*

A modern up to date clinic with two surgeries is housed in the Whalley Drive Clinic and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

5. HEALTH VISITING

Six whole time visitors have been appointed to cover Bletchley and surrounding area, and are doing excellent work for both old and young.

6. WELFARE/MENTAL HEALTH

Two officers cover Bletchley and surrounding areas and are doing very good work amongst the Mentally Handicapped and the Aged.

7. CARE OF THE BLIND

There is a qualified Home Teacher working in the area who visits homes for instruction in Braille, handicrafts and occupational interests.

8. CARE AND AFTER CARE OF THE SICK

A County Medical Social Worker has been appointed to the area who arranges for the care and after care of persons discharged from Hospital and others who are ill at home, particularly those who are handicapped by long-term illnesses and disabilities.

9. SPEECH THERAPY

A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing excellent work among school children.

10. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service is doing excellent work particularly amongst the aged and chronic sick. Two hundred and three cases were helped during the year.

11. DIAGNOSTIC AND OUT PATIENT CLINIC

This Clinic is proving a great boon to the town and has saved many weary journeys to out patient departments at Aylesbury and elsewhere.

The clinic is attended by Specialists in: Ear, Nose and Throat, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Chest Diseases, Orthopaedic Surgery, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Psychiatry.

12. MATERNITY UNIT

In my report for 1947 on this subject I finished with: "but the fact remains that a Maternity Home is an essential in Bletchley and 'here's hoping'!"

The Regional Hospital Board have now planned for this but to date no practical evidence exists of any progress.

13. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals served the area :—

Royal Bucks Hospital
Tindal General Hospital
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Northampton General Hospital
Bedford General Hospital
London Hospitals
St. John's Hospital, Stone
Creaton Sanatorium

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A. WATER.

A pure and wholesome supply has been maintained throughout the district. The Bucks Water Board are the statutory undertakers for this service.

Bacteriological and chemical samples were taken at various periods. No adverse reports were made as to bacteriological condition. A typical report on chemical analysis is as follows :

Parts per million			
pH Value	7.8	Magnesium Nitrate	Nil
Hardness Total	230	Sodium Chloride	30
Hardness Carbonate	200	Sodium Carbonate	Nil
Hardness Non-Carbonate	30	Sodium Sulphate	34
Free Carbon Dioxide	6	Sodium Nitrate	1
Alkalinity as CaCO_3	200	Total Solids	310
Calcium Carbonate	190	Ammonia Nitrogen	Nil
Calcium Sulphate	Nil	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil
Calcium Chloride	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen	0.11
Magnesium Carbonate	10	O_2 Absorbed	0.05
Magnesium Sulphate	30	Iron as Fe	0.05
Magnesium Chloride	Nil	Flouride as F	Nil
		Chlorine Residual	0.2

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewage works has functioned satisfactorily. Samples of the effluent are taken regularly. No complaints of pollution have been received.

The sludge dewatering duplicate plant was completed and both have operated satisfactorily.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Inspections are made of the few watercourses and ditches in the district. Pollution of a stream occurred as the result of overflowing of a blocked sewer. The matter was rectified on clearing the sewer.

D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A few houses in Drayton Road and elsewhere in isolated places are still without main drainage.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly refuse collection is maintained in the district. Two large capacity closed vehicles are in use.

Controlled tipping at the Saldon Wood site has continued to be satisfactory.

F. SHOPS ACT

Administered by the County Council. No contraventions were noted.

Major legislation was introduced when the Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act 1963 was passed. It was expected that the Act and various sets of regulations would come into operation in 1964, designed to control premises in a similar manner to the Factories Act. Local authorities were advised to see that they had the staff to cope with the volume of work expected.

H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaints were received during the year.

The forthcoming electrifying of the main London railway line may reduce smoke from the engine sheds.

I. SWIMMING POOL

The open air swimming pool was again well patronised by some 22,008 people during the summer. Bacteriological samples submitted to Bedford Public Health Laboratory were found to be satisfactory.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR, MR. J. F. SMITHIE

The continuing expansion of the town has again been the main work of the surveying and engineering staff.

Public health duties relating to housing, food hygiene, pest control, etc., as set out below were carried out by Mr. A. James. Other departments connected with the well-being of the community are Works and Highways (Mr. F. W. Bennett), the Housing Department (Mr. T. Holderness and F. H. Orchard), and the Building Inspector (Mr. L. H. Randall).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON
VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN 1962

Public Health and Housing						
Acts	...	...	...	565	Refuse disposal	... 25
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	115	Rodent control	... 32
Food Inspection	...	...	...	29	Infectious diseases	... 42
Butchers' premises	...	...	...	19	Petroleum Acts	... 55
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	67	Interviews	... 48
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	21	Total Visits and	—
Factories Act.	...	...	...	10	Inspections	... 1028

SECTION D

HOUSING

Closing and demolition of unfit houses continued and at the end of 1963 only two unfit dwellings listed in the 1959 report were still occupied. A further survey of the district disclosed several more unfit houses which will be dealt with in the coming year.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number inspected and revisited under Public Health and							
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	565
Houses unfit for habitation and due for clearance	...	...					10
Houses not in all respects fit where notices were served						...	22
Houses rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	...		12
Statutory notices issued	...	...	...	...	...		9
Houses closed or subject to agreement not to re-let	...	...					2

A considerable number of visits were made in connection with overcrowding of houses occupied by foreign workers. Seven successful prosecutions were instituted for offences against notices served under Section 90, Housing Act 1957.

One hundred and seventy six new Council dwellings and 103 private dwellings were completed during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. TYPES AND NUMBERS OF FOOD PREMISES

Butchers	...	...	14	General Food Shops	...	38
Fish Shops	...	...	5	Cafes	...	5
Bakeries	...	...	2	Public Houses	...	21

2. Number of registered premises (ice-cream, cooked meat, etc.) 51

3. One hundred and fifteen inspections and visits were made to all types of food premises. Food condemned amounted to 5,447 lbs. This was disposed of by tipping at the Council's site with other refuse.

4. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers in the district using heat treatment. Inspections were carried out on premises and mobile vehicles. Of ten samples submitted to Bedford Public Health Laboratory, two were unsatisfactory and the matter was taken up with the manufacturers.

5. FOOD HYGIENE

The number of food premises is continuing to increase and require regular inspection to keep up a satisfactory standard of hygiene. Storage and disposal of refuse at many premises creates untidiness and potential nuisance despite a special trade refuse collection.

A new poultry packaging factory started operation towards the end of the year.

There were no cases of food poisoning reported.

6. MEAT

A small private slaughterhouse was licensed for the trade of a shop. All other meat used in the district is obtained from regional centres.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into force on the 1st October, making it obligatory for all animals slaughtered to be inspected and marked. Methods of detailed inspection were also extended.

Details of animals slaughtered are appended overleaf.

SECTION F

FACTORIES ACT

The requisite form of report is attached as an appendix to this report.

SECTION G : OTHER DUTIES

RODENT CONTROL. The joint area comprising Bletchley U.D.C., Newport U.D.C. and R.D.C., has dealt efficiently with all complaints of rats and mice. A bi-annual sewer treatment revealed a few persistent areas where rats have gained access to sewers and drains, and remedial work was carried out.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS. Forty-five premises are licensed to store petroleum, in quantities ranging from a few gallons of cellulose to thousands of gallons at filling stations.

Inspections were carried out to see that the various premises were complying with the regulations.

SECTION H

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

There was an epidemic of Measles in the first half of the year, which was part of a general epidemic throughout the country.

2. NOTIFICATIONS

Measles	338	Poliomyelitis	1
Scarlet Fever	27	Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Dysentery	20	Meningitis	1
Whooping Cough	19	Encephalitis	1

3. TUBERCULOSIS

Thirteen new cases were notified five of which were inward transfers. I have to report there was one death.

4. CANCER

There were 27 deaths from this disease during the year.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	67	—	1	235	118	—
Number inspected ...	43	—	1	135	72	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	7	—	—	—	5	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	105	10	2	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	105	10	2	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	1	2	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to Out- work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total					

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prose- cutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel: Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

